

REMARKS

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-8 and 18-20 without prejudice and have submitted new claims 21-29 for consideration. Applicants respectfully assert that pending claims 9-17 and 21-29 are patentable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 10002399-2, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

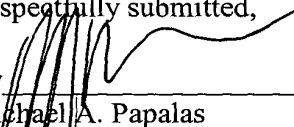
Dated: September 22, 2003

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV256032129US, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: September 22, 2003

Signature: 
John Pallivathukal

Respectfully submitted,

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